



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 265

PRINTERS NO. 236

PRIME SPONSOR: Staats

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

#### SUMMARY:

House Bill 265 amends the Public School Code concerning transfers of credits between institutions of higher education. It would take effect in 60 days.

#### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 265 amends the Public School Code article concerning transfers of credits between institutions of higher education. It adds definitions for the following terms: industry-recognized credential, institution of higher education, public school, and rural regional college. The definition for institution of higher education (IHE) includes community colleges, the universities of the State System of Higher Education, a rural regional college, a state-related institution, and the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. It does not include private colleges or universities. These IHEs must submit interim reports on the use of transfer and articulation agreements to the Department of Education (PDE), the contents of which are detailed in the legislation. These reports must be submitted 180 days after the effective date of this legislation, and each September 30 thereafter.

The legislation requires all IHEs, as defined above, and public schools to submit copies of all articulation agreements to the Department of Education within 180 days of enactment, for inclusion in an existing database. In addition, copies of any future articulation agreements must be provided within 30 days of their completion. The Department must extract transfer information from each agreement and enter the information into the database and provide a meaningful, user-friendly and interactive search engine for access to the information. This must be done within 60 days of the receipt of an articulation agreement.

House Bill 265 also adds to the duties of the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee by requiring that it meet on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation may have a fiscal impact on PDE by requiring the Department to extract data from additional agreements to include in their expanded informational database. However, the exact cost of these activities is not known at this time.

According to the Commonwealth's accounting system, the Department's general government operations appropriation for the most recently completed 2017-18 fiscal year still has over \$1.7 million unspent in budgetary reserve. The original 2017-18 appropriation for this line was \$25,971,000. The available appropriation for 2018-19 is \$26,947,000.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** March 19, 2019

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*